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U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

HIGHLIGHTS FROM MARKET NEWS REVIEWS
Week Ending November 10, 1944

FRUITS AND VEGETABLES

Apples: Apple shipments for the United States continued this past week at a daily average of 324 cars, compared with 368 cars for the previous week, and now total 23,036 cars for the season to date, 43 percent above the 1943 shipments for the same period.

Prices at the close of the week on the western wholesale markets for Jonathans, Delicious, Newtowns and Spitzenbergs Fancy and extra Fancy, wrapped and packed, were $3.25 to $3.68 per box.

Grapes: The daily carlot movement of grapes averaged 110 cars during the week, compared with a daily average of 165 cars for the previous week. The total carlot movement to date is 22,110 cars, a 9 percent increase over the same period in 1943. Emperor grapes made up the bulk of this movement, averaging well over 100 cars per day until November 6, when shipments dropped sharply.

F.o.b. sales at shipping points, for U. S. No. 1 Emperors in 28 pound lugs were mostly $3.50. Wholesale prices at the close of the week on the western markets ranged from $3.50 to $4.50 per lug.

Pears: In the Northwest markets d'Anjou pears fancy wrapped and packed, closed the week at $4.50 to $4.75 per box. In the Southwest they were quoted from $4.65 to $5.00 per box, while Comice closed the week at $4.25 to $4.75 per box.

Total carlot shipments of pears for the United States to date are 13,760 cars, compared with 13,384 cars to the same date in 1943.

Oranges: Valencia oranges are moving into the wholesale markets in increasing volume. Average daily shipments during this past week were 230 cars. Total shipments of the new crop oranges to date this season are 5,790 cars, compared with 3,335 cars for the same period in 1943.
Valencia oranges on the wholesale markets in the West closed the week at $5.00 to $5.75 for all sizes, packed and wrapped.

Cauliflower: Cauliflower at the close of the week showed a rather wide range in price. Local stock on Northwest markets ranged from $1.65 to $2.00 per crate with some as high as $2.50. On the California markets the prices were mostly 90 cents to a $1.25 with the full range 50 cents to $1.50 per crate.

New crop cauliflower reaching the wholesale markets this season to date totals 1,955 cars, compared with 1,404 cars for the same period in 1943.

Lettuce: New crop lettuce shipments for this season to date total 5,976 cars, compared with 4,391 cars for the same period in 1943.

Dry pack crates of 4 to 5 dozen head each closed the week at $3.50 to $4.50 in the Northwest, and $2.25 to $3.00 in the California wholesale markets.

Potatoes: F.o.b. sales on U. S. No. 1 potatoes at Idaho Falls remained at ceiling prices during the past week. Wholesale prices on the western markets for Idaho Russets, U. S. No. 1 in 100 pound bags, ranged $3.25 to $3.50 per bag at the close

of the week. U. S. No. 1 Long Whites size A were $3.50 to $3.65 per bag on the California markets.

Total carlot shipments from Idaho to date are 12,445 cars, compared with 12,765 cars for the same period last year. Total shipments for the United States to date are 137,286 cars, 89 percent of the shipments in 1943 to the same date.

Note: Due to most of the markets being closed on Saturday, there was active trading on the wholesale markets on Friday, and most lines of produce were cleaned up at an early hour.

DAIRY AND POULTRY

Butter: Continued rainy weather on the Pacific Coast has resulted in better pasture conditions for dairy stock. However, it has not yet affected the milk flow and consequently the butter supply, which remains below demand. Many distributors are reported to be continuing voluntary rationing of their available supplies. Prices remain at ceiling.

Eggs: Incoming supplies of eggs on the Pacific Coast markets were further checked this week as the result of the heavy rains, particularly in the central and northern California sections. Grade A supplies on all the western markets sold at ceiling prices. Demand for Grade B and Smalls was increasing. The northern areas indicate that the low point in production and supplies is now near, and that an upward trend may soon appear.

During the heavy production season, the WFA purchased and stored surplus shell eggs. 132,859 cases (approximately 225 cars) of these eggs are now being offered for sale by the WFA to all commercial egg buyers, on an invitation to bid basis.

Poultry: A partial suspension of WFO 106 (the turkey set-aside order), became effective after midnight November 5, when WFA announced that turkeys processed after that time could be sold in the regular trade channels. As the result of the partial suspension, turkey producers are no longer required to sell their turkeys to authorized processors. However, turkeys processed prior to that time must continue to be offered to the QMC before they can be offered elsewhere.

Prices to retailers and others for live turkeys on the San Francisco market, at the close of the week were 42½ to 43 3/4 cents per pound. F.o.b. paying prices on the wholesale markets were 34.3 to 36.3 cents per pound. The retail price to consumers in the San Francisco area is 51 cents per pound.

LIVESTOCK AND MEATS

Cattle: Receipts of cattle on the twelve principal markets declined during the week to 74 percent of the receipts of the previous week, and 70 percent of those for the same week in 1943. This number, 213,900 head, was 23 percent above the receipts for the same week in 1942. Receipts on the western markets were approximately the same this past week as for the previous week and prices remained little changed. Top price on fed steers, during the week, was $14.00. On grass steers, the top prices obtained ranged from $13.50 to $14.00, and on grass heifers $11.50 to $12.00.

Hogs: Western market hog receipts for this last week were approximately 90 percent of those for the previous week, while on the twelve principal markets they were 98

percent of the receipts for the previous week, or 317,100 head. Receipts for the same week in 1943 were 321,861 head, and in 1942, 227,571 head.

Top prices on the western markets for support weight barrows and gilts were $15.25 to $15.50.

Sheep: Receipts of sheep and lambs last week on the western markets were but 75 percent of the receipts for the previous week, and prices paid were up an average of 50 cents. On the twelve principal markets, receipts were 231,600 head, 77 percent of the receipts for the previous week, and 65 percent of those for the same week last year, but 20 percent greater than the same period in 1942.

The Ogden Livestock Show reports Grand Champion sales as follows: steer, $1.55 per pound; hog, 37 cents per pound; fat lamb, $1.95 per pound. Carload champions brought $19.00, $20.50 and $20.00 per hundredweight respectively.

GRAIN PRODUCTS

Wheat: Wheat growers in the Western Region showed a general tendency toward holding supplies for later anticipated price increases. On the Pacific slope, prices advanced 1 to 2 cents toward the close of the week above the close of the previous week, thus picking the decline for that week. Prices on Soft White wheat were quoted in the Northwest at $1.51 per bushel, and in San Francisco and Los Angeles at $2.72½ and $2.82½ per cwt. ($1.63 and $1.69 per bushel).

Latest reports indicate there is much need for rain in the wheat belt of the United States to bring about proper germination of the winter wheat crop.

The Australian wheat crop for 1944 is estimated to be the smallest since 1919. On October 6, it was estimated to be 50,000,000 bushels. In 1943 it was 108,000,000 bushels.

The wheat crop in Argentina is now indicated to be approximately enough to take care of domestic requirements of about 11,000,000 bushels. A severe drought during the planting season, and continued dry weather, is held responsible for the reduced crop. The 1943 crop was placed at 250,000,000 bushels.

Corn: November estimates indicate a possible corn crop in the United States of 3,258,000,000 bushels. The 1943 crop was 3,076,000,000 bushels.

Rice: Continued wet weather had brought rice harvesting operations to almost a complete standstill at the end of the week. It is estimated that about 20 percent of the California crop of 6,642,000 bags (Nov. 1, estimates) remains in the field.

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